

In the Claims: Kindly cancel without prejudice claims allowed claims 16-21 and amend claims 9 and 22 as follows:

(9)(AMENDED) In claim 9, in line 2, please substitute --9.8% and about 12.3% -- for "9.6% and about 13.8%"; in line 4, please substitute --20.9% and about 26.7% -- for "21.2% and about 27.8%"; in line 6, please substitute --35.3% and about 44.1% -- for "35.1% and about 44.2%"; in line 8, please substitute --44.8% and about 58.7% -- for "45.6% and about 58.5%"; and in line 10, please substitute --59.5% and about 70.7% -- for "56.2% and about 72.0%"; and in line 12, please substitute --84.4% and about 120.5% -- for "78.1% and about 103.9%".

(22)(TWICE AMENDED) In claim 22, line 1, please substitute --13-- for "16".

Remarks

In the Office Action dated, November 6, 2001, the Examiner indicated that the amended claim did not include a clean version and a mark-up version.

In view of the amendments made herein to claims 9 and 16, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's previous rejection of claims 9 and 16 is no longer applicable and, therefore, should be discontinued.

It is also respectfully submitted that allowed claims 16-20 have been canceled without prejudice herein so that they can be prosecuted in a continuation application.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims, as now amended herein, overcome the Examiner's rejection raised in the Notice dated November 6, 2001. It is also respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are patentably distinct over the disclosures of record when the disclosures are considered either alone under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 or in any appropriate combination under 35 U.S.C. §103 for the reasons set forth in the Amendment dated March 30, 1999. It is further respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims are in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

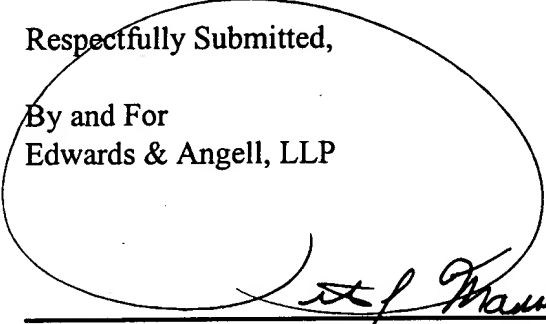
As a result of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application and all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, early passage

of the above-reference application for U.S. patent to issuance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or require additional information or clarification, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the attorney of record Peter J. Manso, at the phone numbers noted below.

Respectfully Submitted,

By and For
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